

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10. (Cancelled).

11. (ORIGINAL) A communications driver comprising:

a network driver interface; and

a miniport driver coupled to the network driver interface, the miniport driver comprising:

a system interface abstraction layer (SIAL) comprising:

an operating system (OS) interface to process a plurality of messages for a plurality of internal driver entities; and

a message controller coupled to the OS interface to transfer the plurality of messages.

12. (ORIGINAL) The communications driver of claim 11, the SIAL further comprising:

a platform interface coupled to the message controller for providing platform specific information and commands to the message controller.

13. (ORIGINAL) The communications driver of claim 11, wherein the message controller communicates with the OS interface through functions.

14. (ORIGINAL) The communications driver of claim 11, the message controller further comprising:

a plurality of message channels, each message channel for communicating a subset of the plurality of messages to and from a corresponding subset of the plurality of internal devices to a specific external device.

15. (ORIGINAL) The communications system driver of claim 14, wherein the message controller comprises a plurality of installable components corresponding to the plurality of message channels.

16. (ORIGINAL) The communications system driver of claim 15, wherein the plurality of installable components comprise function pointers corresponding to functions in the OS interface.

17. (ORIGINAL) The communications driver of claim 11, the OS interface comprising:

an external interface for communicating with the plurality of external entities.

18. (ORIGINAL) The communications system driver of claim 11, the network driver interface further comprising:

a dynamic messaging library coupled to the SIAL.

19. (ORIGINAL) The communications system driver of claim 11, wherein each message of the plurality of messages comprises a message header portion containing routing

information for the message controller and a message information portion containing data related to an action for a target entity to perform.

20. (ORIGINAL) The communications system driver of claim 19, wherein a message header comprises an event variable to indicate a unique event for a corresponding message channel and a message channel identifier variable to indicate the corresponding message channel.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A communications card, the communications card comprising: a communications system driver comprising:

a network driver interface;

a miniport driver coupled to the network driver interface; and

a system interface abstraction layer (SIAL) coupled to the network driver interface and the miniport driver, the SIAL comprising:

an operating system (OS) interface for processing a plurality of messages to and from a plurality of entities internal to the OS; and

a message controller coupled to the OS interface for translating the messages and routing the message to and from an entity external to the OS.

22. (ORIGINAL) The communications card of claim 21, the SIAL further comprising:

a platform interface coupled to the message controller for providing platform specific information and commands to the message controller.

23. (ORIGINAL) The communications card of claim 21, wherein the message controller communicates with the OS interface through functions.

24. (ORIGINAL) The communications card of claim 21, the message controller further comprising:

a plurality of message channels, each message channel for communicating a subset of the plurality of messages to and from a corresponding subset of the plurality of internal devices to a specific external device.

25. (ORIGINAL) The communications card of claim 24, wherein a message header comprises an event variable to indicate a unique event for a corresponding message channel and a message channel identifier variable to indicate the corresponding message channel.

26. (ORIGINAL) The communications card of claim 24, wherein the message controller comprises a plurality of installable components corresponding to the plurality of message channels.

27. (ORIGINAL) The communications card of claim 26, wherein the plurality of installable components comprise function pointers corresponding to functions in the OS interface.

28. (ORIGINAL) The communications card of claim 21, the OS interface comprising:
a external interface for communicating with the plurality of external entities.

29. (ORIGINAL) The communications card of claim 21, the communications card further comprising:
a dynamic messaging library coupled to the SIAL.

Claims 30-48 (cancelled).